

## Fair Committee Meeting – July 24, 2003 – Minutes

Meeting began 6:35 p.m.

### Focus on the Fair – A Family Affair

Marilyn stressed that the fair is a family activity, which the entire family should be able to enjoy. There was a concern expressed last year over the manner in which a parent was addressed about the presence of small children in the barn on Monday. Discussion followed with the following points being made: 1) the barn can be overcrowded on Monday and we need to strike a balance on setting limits and watching traffic flow, and 2) if people are expressing concern about small children being present we need to address the situation tactfully, being diplomatic in reinforcing that 4-H is for the family and all children are welcome. Suggestions were made to help alleviate the problem: 1) if the person with children is helping in the barn, relocate the person to a more appropriate place or get a youth to help care for the children, 2) rope off an area and provide activities and supervision for small children, and 3) there will be a supervisor for teen workers that can make sure youth are available to help. Following discussion it was decided to provide an activity area and supervision for small children. This information is to be provided to clubs so parents can make informed decisions on whether or not to bring their younger children on Monday.

A short video clip from the National Conference of 4H Agents regarding the negative affects of competition was viewed. Discussion followed. Comments included that we need to reinforce the “fun” aspect and that parents, not youth, are the problem after a competition. The difficulty in providing the learning component was also pointed out, as in the example of the horse competition – there is not enough time to judge all the classes and still allow time for the judges to talk with each of the youth. It was concluded that parents and adults need to keep things in perspective and should try to create a more positive experience for the youth.

Vests from campus will be available for use by 4-H volunteer workers at the fair. The vests will provide easy identification to members in need of assistance.

### Day Chairperson

A job description for the Day Chairperson was discussed. The following responsibilities were identified:

- ?? Day Chairpersons should consider themselves an ambassador for 4-H. They should welcome all families, youth and leaders.
- ?? Day Chairperson should open and close the Exhibit Barn and turn on lights.
- ?? Day Chairperson should ensure there is proper coverage in the Exhibit Barn and should keep workers informed of their location during the day. Walkie-talkies should be available for use.
- ?? Day Chairperson should monitor the information book and make sure volunteers have signed in.
- ?? Should the Day Chairperson be confronted with issues that arise during the fair, they should work at creating a WIN-WIN situation, document the issue and use the appropriate resolution process. MSUE 4-H staff will be involved in the resolution process.

Concerns regarding conflict issues at the fair were discussed. Gossiping, “behind-the-back” chatter and over-reaction to issues are problems that arise and detract from 4-H. The comment was made, “Isn’t this obvious? It’s sad that we even have to discuss this.” While all agreed to the sadness of the situation, the reality of needing to deal with it was also recognized. It was pointed out that we have to start checking our actions and set an example with anger management and conflict skills. We need to recognize the problem and manage it. To help Day Chairpersons and those others who deal with conflict, Tina provided information on how to reduce stress and resolve issues:

1. State your concern
2. Identify the problem
3. Explore alternatives
4. Predict consequences
5. Find out what the person is going to do
6. Express support

Don’t try to solve the other person’s problem – help them solve it themselves.

### **Role of MSUE staff**

The role of superintendents is already defined, however, the role of MSUE 4-H staff needs definition. Marilyn requested information on what leaders would like from the staff. The following points were made:

- ?? Be more visible. Staff will be wearing MSUE vests.
- ?? Staff will have walkie-talkies to be in contact with the Day Chairperson.
- ?? Staff should have a “home base”.
- ?? Staff should attend major events
- ?? More 4-H material should be in Exhibit barn and petting farm. Suggested materials to include were: maps, information on 4-H activities other than the fair, project area sheets (without the codes), sportsmanship information to be posted in the barns, and also, general documentation sheets for problems (information to include – date, time, issue, parties, resolution or comments).

Marilyn pointed out that we would have a general MSUE information booth in the Merchant Building. 4-H material will also be available there. It was suggested that at the booths, cross-reference should be made to where MSUE information is available.

Discussion was also held on what not to expect from 4-H staff. Points made were:

- ?? A staff person is not a judge
- ?? Staff cannot be there 24 hours a day
- ?? Staff cannot resolve every issue alone

### **Standards of Dress**

During competition – discussion concluded: Dress codes for competition are stated in the fair book and must be followed by participants. Leaders must be pre-emptive, reminding youth about the dress codes. If improper attire is noticed prior to start of a competition, the youth can be reminded and may have time to change. If improper attire is noted during the competition, the youth will be dismissed from that particular competition but will be able to participate in other classes provided they follow the dress code required.

During 4-H Volunteer time – Discussion concluded: Youth or adults working on behalf of 4-H must dress in a manner that reflects 4-H values. (For example, when working in the barns, serving as ambassadors, king or queen, etc. dress appropriate to 4-H)

During leisure time – Discussion concluded: We all need to respect the fact that people have different opinions regarding correct or appropriate dress. When on personal leisure time, youth and adults have the right to dress according to their personal opinions.

Information being sent to leaders will request they review dress codes and discuss the meaning of appropriate attire during work or leisure as it expresses 4-H values.

### **Resolution Process – Code of Conduct Violations – youth**

Discussion was held regarding possible consequences for youth that violate the Code of Conduct. Concerns were expressed regarding the lack of enforceable consequences and liability issues. Three suggestions were made for consequences to violation of the Code of Conduct by a youth:

1. Youth must do 5 hours of community service at the fair or during fair clean-up
2. Youth must do 5 hours of community service at the fair or during fair clean up with written notice that failure to perform the community service will result in 90 days probation.
3. Nothing should be done at this time.

Formal action was taken by hand vote. Suggestion #1 was approved.

The question was brought up if anything could be done regarding adults who violate the Code of Conduct. Unless an adult has done something legally wrong, it is difficult to create enforceable consequences. Any problems that occur should be documented and would be reviewed, but any action taken would be dependent on an entire process of review.

The Code of Conduct will be posted in the barns.

### **Petting Farm**

The following information needs to be provided to anyone assisting at the petting farm:

- ?? Only 4-H members from the responsible club should be in the cone booth. A vest or identification tag will be worn. Friends should not be staying in the petting farm booth.
- ?? A tally on money will be taken at the end of each shift. It will be counted and signed off on with names and amount. A cone count will be kept
- ?? Clubs are requested to use older youth to work the booth in the evening and on the weekend.

### **Livestock Exhibitors Meeting**

An Exhibitors Meeting will be held on Monday night after the weigh-in to go over expectations of exhibitors and their families and to sign up barn monitors.

## **Information to Community Leaders**

Information to be sent to Community Leaders and which they are to share with all members includes:

1. Availability of youth supervision for small children on Monday
2. Dress code reminder
3. Fair Superintendents list
4. Petting Farm information
5. Code of Conduct information
6. Livestock meeting information
7. Schedules for the Exhibitor Barn and Petting Farm
8. Roles and Responsibilities information

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.